

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 19, 2008. Claims 1-18 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 9, and 12 are in independent form. Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 12, and 13 have been amended to define Applicant's invention more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The specification has been amended to include section headings and as to other formal matters. Applicant respectfully submits that the changes to the specification add no new matter to the original disclosure.

The Office Action objected to the text at page 4, lines 1-4 of the specification and recommended that such text be deleted. Applicant has chosen not to delete these lines at this time without receiving a further explanation of the basis of the objection as to that section of the specification. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that such an explanation be provided in the next communication from the Office. Lacking such an explanation, Applicant submits that the objection as to the specification has been obviated and respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Submitted herewith is an Annotated Drawing Sheet and a Replacement Sheet of corrected drawings, which includes changes to Figs. 6 and 7. In amended Figs. 6 and 7, 'State of the Art' has been changed to 'PRIOR ART'. Applicant submits that the amendments to the drawings add no new matter to the original disclosure. Approval of the amended drawings is respectfully requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that Claims 1-8 and 11-18 are allowed. This leaves only Claims 9 and 10 unallowed.

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,762,570 (*Fosler*). Applicant submits that independent Claim 9 is patentably distinct from the cited reference for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 9 is directed to an interface for a lamp operating device. The interface includes at least one input-side signal terminal for the connection of a bus line or for connection with a button or switch. The interface also includes an evaluation logic for the processing of signals present at the input-side terminal and for the generation of output-side signals for the control of the lamp operating device. The evaluation logic has a voltage supply independent of a mains voltage supply of the lamp operating device.

A notable feature of Claim 9 is that the evaluation logic has a voltage supply independent of a mains voltage supply of the lamp operating device. Nothing has been found, or pointed out, in *Fosler* that is believed to teach or suggest this feature of Claim 9.

Fosler is seen to relate to control and status of building lighting and power systems, and more particularly to minimizing standby power in a digital addressable lighting interface (DALI). As understood by Applicant, in the apparatus described in *Fosler*, a Digital Addressable Lighting Interface (DALI) can have a standby mode and an active mode (col. 2, ll. 41-64). In the active mode, power is supplied to the DALI by an associated power controller (e.g., Fig. 1, refs. 112, 126), and in standby mode power is supplied to the DALI by a high resistance voltage dropping resistor connected to a high voltage DC source rectified from the AC line voltage power source (e.g., Fig. 1, refs. 110, 130, 134). Thus, in both the standby and active modes, it appears that power to the DALI (104, Fig. 1) and the Processor (102, Fig. 1) is

dependent on the main power source 136 because both the standby power pickup 110 and the power controller 106 tap off of the main power source 136 at node 134.

Moreover, according to the DALI Manual¹, a copy of which is enclosed with the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith, it is necessary that the interface be decoupled. Therefore the ballast cannot be simply supplied via the DALI bus. In this regard Applicant respectfully refers to the Examiner to the fourth full paragraph at page 19 of the DALI Manual, which states:

Potentialfree control input - the control input is separated galvanically from the mains voltage. Consequently all system participants may be operated with different outer conductors (phases).

Moreover, since the DALI Manual states that, ‘Each participant connected to the interface may consume a maximum of 2 mA’, and since the voltage of the DALI bus is nominally 16 V, the maximum power available for each participant would be 32 mW, which would definitely not be enough power to drive an integrated circuit as proposed by *Fosler*, since usually more than 1 W is necessary. (See, e.g., DALI Manual, at page 19 and at page 21, §4.3). Accordingly, the device described in *Fosler* cannot teach or suggest that an ‘evaluation logic has a voltage supply independent of a mains voltage supply of the lamp operating device’, as recited in Claim 9, because power to the DALI (104, Fig. 1) and the Processor (102, Fig. 1) is dependent on the main power source 136.

Accordingly, Claim 9 is not anticipated by *Fosler*.

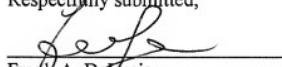
¹DALI Manual. Digital Addressable Lighting Interface Activity Group, ZVEI-Division Luminaries. AG DALI. 2001.

Claim 10, the other rejected claim in this application, depends from Claim 9, and therefore, is submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons mentioned above. Because that dependent claim also is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration of the patentability of that claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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Annotated Sheet

3/3

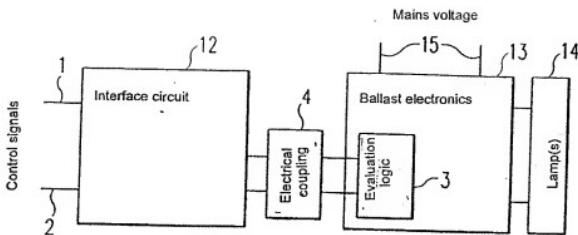


Fig. 6
State of the Art
PRIOR ART

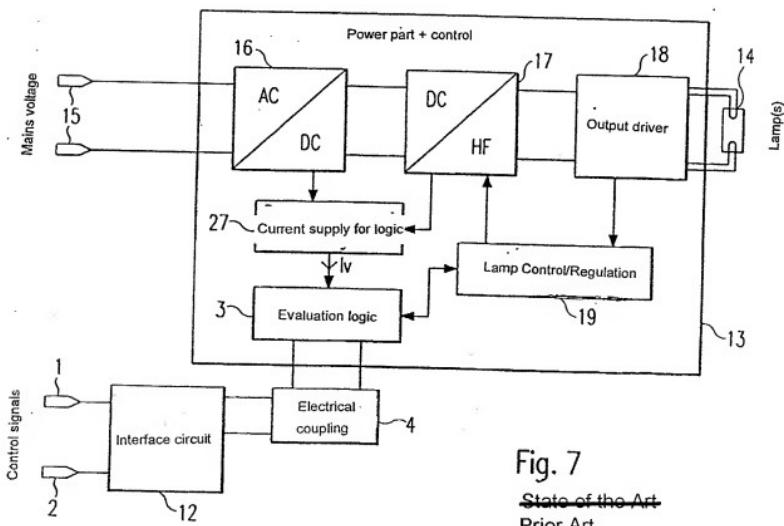


Fig. 7
State of the Art
Prior Art